AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) In an e-mail sender client that is network connectable to an e-mail reader client so as to be capable of sending an e-mail message to the e-mail reader client, a method of transmitting the e-mail message in a way that discourages dissemination of information contained within the e-mail message, the method comprising the following:

> an act of accessing an e-mail message;

> an act of setting an indicator indicating that one or more functions that limit the opportunity to disseminate e-mail messages are to be applied to the e-mail message;

> an act of associating the indicator with the accessed e-mail message;

> an act of encrypting the e-mail message; and

> an act of dispatching the e-mail message to the e-mail reader client in encrypted form through the use of an e-mail server, wherein the e-mail server, prior to transmitting the e-mail message to the e-mail reader client, first determines that the e-mail reader client is capable of implementing the one or more functions, and such that the e-mail message is not transmitted to the e-mail reader client until the e-mail server first determines that the e-mail reader client is capable of implementing the one or more functions.

2. (Original) A method in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the indicator further identifies the one or more functions that limit the opportunity to disseminate e-mail messages.

3.   (Original)   A method in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the act of setting an indicator indicating that one or more functions that limit the opportunity to disseminate e-mail messages are to be applied to the e-mail message comprises the following:

an act of setting an indicator indicating a disablement of printing the e-mail message.

4.   (Original)   A method in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the act of setting an indicator indicating that one or more functions that limit the opportunity to disseminate e-mail messages are to be applied to the e-mail message comprises the following:

an act of setting an indicator indicating a disablement of copying the e-mail message.

5.   (Original)   A method in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the act of setting an indicator indicating that one or more functions that limit the opportunity to disseminate e-mail messages are to be applied to the e-mail message comprises the following:

an act of setting an indicator indicating a disablement of saving the e-mail message.

6.   (Original)   A method in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the act of setting an indicator indicating that one or more functions that limit the opportunity to disseminate e-mail messages are to be applied to the e-mail message comprises the following:

an act of setting an indicator indicating a disablement of forwarding the e-mail message.

7.   (Original)   A method in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the act of setting an indicator indicating that one or more functions that limit the opportunity to disseminate e-mail messages are to be applied to the e-mail message comprises the following:

an act of setting an indicator indicating a disablement of print screening the e-mail message.

8.   (Original)   A method in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the act of setting an indicator indicating that one or more functions that limit the opportunity to disseminate e-mail messages are to be applied to the e-mail message comprises the following:

an act of setting an indicator indicating that reply functions are to be limited.

9.   (Original)   A method in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the act of setting an indicator indicating that one or more functions that limit the opportunity to disseminate e-mail messages are to be applied to the e-mail message comprises the following:

an act of setting an indicator indicating that reply all functions are to be limited.

10.   (Original)   A method in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the act of setting an indicator indicating that one or more functions that limit the opportunity to disseminate e-mail messages are to be applied to the e-mail message comprises the following:

an act of setting an indicator indicating that the e-mail message should only be temporarily displayed on a monitor.

11.   (Cancelled).

12.   (Currently Amended) A computer program product for use in an e-mail sender client that is network connectable to a e-mail reader client so as to be capable of sending an e-mail message to the e-mail reader client, the computer program product for implementing a method of transmitting the e-mail message in a way that discourages dissemination of information contained within the e-mail message, the computer program product comprising a computer-readable medium having stored thereon computer-executable instructions for performing the following:

> an act of causing an e-mail message to be accessed;

> an act of causing an indicator to be set, the indicator indicating that one or more functions that limit the opportunity to disseminate e-mail messages are to be applied to the e-mail message;

> an act of causing the indicator to be associated with the accessed e-mail message;

> an act of encrypting the e-mail message; and

> an act of causing the e-mail message to be dispatched the e-mail reader client in encrypted form through the use of an e-mail server, wherein the e-mail server, prior to transmitting the e-mail message to the e-mail reader client, first determines that the e-mail reader client is capable of implementing the one or more functions, and such that the e-mail message is not transmitted to the e-mail reader client until the e-mail server first determines that the e-mail reader client is capable of implementing the one or more functions.

13.   (Original)   A computer program product in accordance with Claim 12, wherein the computer-readable medium is one or more physical storage media.

14.   (Currently Amended) In an e-mail server that is network connectable to an e-mail sender client and to an e-mail reader client so as to be capable of receiving e-mail messages from the e-mail sender client and communicate e-mail message to the e-mail reader client, a method of discouraging dissemination of information contained within an e-mail message received from the e-mail sender client, the method comprising the following:

an act of receiving an e-mail message in encrypted form;

an act of storing the e-mail message in encrypted form;

an act of determining that the e-mail message has an associated indicator indicating that one or more functions that limit the opportunity to disseminate e-mail messages are to be applied to the e-mail message;

an act of verifying that the e-mail reader client is capable of implementing the one or more functions; and

only after the act verifying that the e-mail reader client is capable of implementing the one or more functions, an act of transmitting the e-mail message to the e-mail reader client in encrypted form, such that the e-mail message is not transmitted to the e-mail reader client until the e-mail server first determines that the e-mail reader client is capable of implementing the one or more functions.

15.   (Original)   A method in accordance with Claim 14, further comprising:

an act of authenticating a user of the e-mail reader client as being an intended recipient of the e-mail message, wherein the act of transmitting occurs after the act of authenticating.

16.   (Original)   A method in accordance with Claim 14, wherein the indicator further identifies the one or more functions that limit the opportunity to disseminate e-mail messages.

17.   (Original)   A method in accordance with Claim 14, wherein the act of determining that the e-mail message has an associated indicator indicating that one or more functions that limit the opportunity to disseminate e-mail messages are to be applied to the e-mail message comprises the following:

an act of determining that the e-mail message has an associated indicator indicating the disablement of printing the e-mail message.

18.   (Original)   A method in accordance with Claim 14, wherein the act of determining that the e-mail message has an associated indicator indicating that one or more functions that limit the opportunity to disseminate e-mail messages are to be applied to the e-mail message comprises the following:

an act of determining that the e-mail message has an associated indicator indicating the disablement of copying the e-mail message.

19.   (Original)   A method in accordance with Claim 18, wherein the act of determining that the e-mail message has an associated indicator indicating the disablement of copying the e-mail message comprises the following:

an act of determining that the e-mail message has an associated indicator indicating the disablement of the cut editing function.

20.   (Original)   A method in accordance with Claim 18, wherein the act of determining that the e-mail message has an associated indicator indicating the disablement of copying the e-mail message comprises the following:

an act of determining that the e-mail message has an associated indicator indicating the disablement of the copy editing function.

21.   (Original)   A method in accordance with Claim 14, wherein the act of determining that the e-mail message has an associated indicator indicating that one or more functions that limit the opportunity to disseminate e-mail messages are to be applied to the e-mail message comprises the following:

an act of determining that the e-mail message has an associated indicator indicating the disablement of saving the e-mail message.

22.   (Original)   A method in accordance with Claim 14, wherein the act of determining that the e-mail message has an associated indicator indicating that one or more functions that limit the opportunity to disseminate e-mail messages are to be applied to the e-mail message comprises the following:

an act of determining that the e-mail message has an associated indicator indicating the disablement of forwarding the e-mail message.

23.   (Original)   A method in accordance with Claim 14, wherein the act of determining that the e-mail message has an associated indicator indicating that one or more functions that limit the opportunity to disseminate e-mail messages are to be applied to the e-mail message comprises the following:

an act of determining that the e-mail message has an associated indicator indicating that reply functions are to be limited.

24.   (Original)   A method in accordance with Claim 14, wherein the act of determining that the e-mail message has an associated indicator indicating that one or more functions that limit the opportunity to disseminate e-mail messages are to be applied to the e-mail message comprises the following:

an act of determining that the e-mail message has an associated indicator indicating that reply all functions are to be limited.

25.   (Original)   A method in accordance with Claim 14, wherein the act of determining that the e-mail message has an associated indicator indicating that one or more functions that limit the opportunity to disseminate e-mail messages are to be applied to the e-mail message comprises the following:

an act of determining that the e-mail message has an associated indicator indicating the disablement of print screening the e-mail message.

26.   (Original)   A method in accordance with Claim 14, wherein the act of determining that the e-mail message has an associated indicator indicating that one or more functions that limit the opportunity to disseminate e-mail messages are to be applied to the e-mail message comprises the following:

an act of determining that the e-mail message should only be temporarily displayed on a monitor.

27.   (Currently Amended) A computer program product for use in an e-mail server that is network connectable to an e-mail sender client and to an e-mail reader client so as to be capable of receiving e-mail messages from the e-mail sender client and communicate e-mail message to the e-mail reader client, the computer program product for implementing a method of discouraging dissemination of information contained within an e-mail message received from the e-mail sender client, the computer program product comprising a computer-readable medium having stored thereon computer-executable instructions for performing the following:

an act of detecting the receipt of an e-mail message in encrypted form;

an act of causing the e-mail message to be stored in encrypted form;

an act of determining that the e-mail message has an associated indicator indicating that one or more functions that limit the opportunity to disseminate e-mail messages are to be applied to the e-mail message;

an act of verifying that the e-mail reader client is capable of implementing the one or more functions; and

only after the act verifying that the e-mail reader client is capable of implementing the one or more functions, an act of transmitting the e-mail message to the e-mail reader client in encrypted form, such that the e-mail message is not transmitted to the e-mail reader client until the e-mail server first determines that the e-mail reader client is capable of implementing the one or more functions.

28.   (Original)   A computer program product in accordance with Claim 27, wherein the computer-readable medium is one or more physical storage media.

29.   (Currently Amended) In an e-mail reader client that is network connectable to an e-mail sender client so as to be capable of receiving an e-mail message from e-mail sender client, a method of discouraging dissemination of information contained within the e-mail message, the method comprising the following:

an act of receiving an e-mail message in encrypted form from an e-mail server, wherein the e-mail message is only transmitted to the e-mail reader client from the e-mail server after the e-mail server has first determined that the e-mail reader client is capable of implementing one or more functions that have been applied to the e-mail message by the e-mail sender that limit the opportunity to disseminate the e-mail message, and such that the e-mail reader will only receive the e-mail message from the e-mail server after the e-mail server has verified that the e-mail reader client is capable of implementing the one or more functions;

an act of storing the e-mail message in encrypted form;

an act of determining that the e-mail message has an associated indicator indicating that the one or more functions that limit the opportunity to disseminate e-mail messages are to be applied to the e-mail message; and

an act of implementing the one or more functions on the e-mail message.

30.   (Original)   The method in accordance with Claim 29, further comprising the following:

an act of identifying the one or more functions from the indicator.

31.   (Original)   The method in accordance with Claim 29, wherein the one or more functions are default functions to be performed upon completion of the act of determining.

32.   (Original)   The method in accordance with Claim 29, wherein the act of implementing the one or more functions on the e-mail message comprises the following:

an act of disabling printing of the e-mail message.

33.   (Original)   The method in accordance with Claim 29, wherein the act of implementing the one or more functions on the e-mail message comprises the following:

an act of disabling copying of the e-mail message.

34.   (Original)   The method in accordance with Claim 29, wherein the act of implementing the one or more functions on the e-mail message comprises the following:

an act of disabling saving of the e-mail message.

35.   (Original)   The method in accordance with Claim 29, wherein the act of implementing the one or more functions on the e-mail message comprises the following:

an act of disabling forwarding of the e-mail message.

36.   (Original)   The method in accordance with Claim 29, wherein the act of determining comprises an act of determining that reply functions are to be limited, wherein the act of implementing the one or more functions on the e-mail message comprises the following:

an act of receiving a user input selection of a reply button;

generating a reply message template in response to the user input selection;

an act of disabling the editing of the addressing fields corresponding to the reply message template.

37.   (Original)   The method in accordance with Claim 36, wherein the act of disabling the editing of the reply message template comprises the following:

an act of disabling the editing of the "TO" address field;

an act of disabling the editing of the "CC" address field; and

an act of disabling the editing of the "BCC" address field.

38.   (Original)   The method in accordance with Claim 29, wherein the act of determining comprises an act of determining that reply all functions are to be limited, wherein the act of implementing the one or more functions on the e-mail message comprises the following:

    an act of receiving a user input selection of a reply all button;

    an act of generating a reply message template in response to the user input selection;

    an act of disabling the editing of the addressing fields corresponding to the reply message template.

39.   (Original)   The method in accordance with Claim 38, wherein the act of disabling the editing of the reply message template comprises the following:
    an act of disabling the editing of the "TO" address field;
    an act of disabling the editing of the "CC" address field; and
    an act of disabling the editing of the "BCC" address field.

40.   (Original)   The method in accordance with Claim 29, wherein the act of implementing the one or more functions on the e-mail message comprises the following:
    an act of disabling print screening of the e-mail message.

41.   (Original)   The method in accordance with Claim 29, wherein the act of implementing the one or more functions on the e-mail message comprises the following:
    an act of displaying the e-mail message for a predetermined amount of time; and
    an act of disabling the display of the e-mail message after the act of displaying.

42.   (Cancelled).

43.   (Currently Amended) A computer program product for use in an e-mail reader client that is network connectable to an e-mail sender client so as to be capable of receiving an e-mail message from e-mail sender client, the computer program product for implementing a method of discouraging dissemination of information contained within the e-mail message, the method comprising the following:

an act of detecting the receipt of an e-mail message in encrypted form from an e-mail server, wherein the e-mail message is only transmitted to the e-mail reader client from the e-mail server after the e-mail server has first determined that the e-mail reader client is capable of implementing one or more functions that have been applied to the e-mail message by the e-mail sender that limit the opportunity to disseminate the e-mail message, and such that the e-mail reader will only receive the e-mail message from the e-mail server after the e-mail server has verified that the e-mail reader client is capable of implementing the one or more functions;

an act of causing the e-mail message to be stored in encrypted form;

an act of determining that the e-mail message has an associated indicator indicating that the one or more functions that limit the opportunity to disseminate e-mail messages are to be applied to the e-mail message; and

an act of causing the one or more functions to be applied to the e-mail message.

44.   (Original)   A computer program product in accordance with Claim 43, wherein the computer-readable medium is one or more physical storage media.

45-48. (Cancelled).

49.   (New) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the e-mail reader client indicates to the e-mail server that it is capable of implementing the one or more functions during an initial registration process.

50.   (New) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the e-mail reader client indicates to the e-mail server that it is capable of implementing the one or more functions at any time other than during an initial registration process.